

PDF IMAGE-ONLY DEDICATED PRINT-FLOW PIPELINE STRUCTURE AND PROCESSING

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application claims filing date priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application
5 Serial No. 60/500407 covering an invention entitled “PDF Image-Only Dedicated Print-
Flow Pipeline Structure and Processing”, filed on September 5, 2003. The inventorship
is the same as that in this application, and the entirety of this provisional patent
application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Background and Summary of the Invention

10 This invention structurally and methodologically relates to the speedy, efficient
and high-quality handling of an image-only file in a PDF data stream which is en route to
a printer. Such a file might typically have been initiated by a document scanning
operation aimed at sending that document to a recipient printer via e-mail and the
Internet. Other transit modalities are, of course, possible, and the present invention is
15 independent of all such modalities.

Typical PDF conventional, or standard, data-handling protocols and environments
are rich with capabilities for many tasks involved with managing, manipulating and
conveying PDF data files, but are notably less than fully satisfactory in certain ways with
regard to the handling of image-only PDF files. Handling and processing of such files is
20 often discomfortingly slow and tedious and end printed-image results often result as
image-quality disappointments.

The present invention tackles these less-than-satisfactory, conventional, PDF
image-file handling image-only issues, and effectively does so by monitoring an en route

PDF data stream to detect the presence (or presences) of any truly PDF image-only file (or files) in that stream.

According to the invention, such an image-only file is functionally deflected and channeled away from conventional, downstream, PDF handling protocols and environments, and is, instead, fed dedicatedly to a new PDF image-only-committed
5 pipeline, wherein it is treated to speedy and efficient handling, and passing along for printing, with printed results meeting very high standards of printed-image quality.

The various features and advantages of the invention will now shortly become very apparent as the detailed description which follows is read in conjunction with the
10 accompanying drawings.

Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block/schematic systemic diagram illustrating a preferred and best mode embodiment of, and manner of practicing the structure and methodology of the present invention.

15 Fig. 2 presents a more detailed picture of the novel PDF Image-Only Pipeline portion of the system shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 pictures details of the Image Decoding block which appears in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 shows details of the Render for Printing block illustrated in Fig. 2.

Detailed Description of the Invention

20 Turning now to the drawings, and referring first of all to Fig. 1, illustrated generally at 10 are both the system and the methodology of the present invention. Describing the invention now in a blend of systemic and methodologic ways, block 12 in Fig. 1 represents a PDF Data Stream with respect to which system 10 is to perform. With

the understanding that data stream 12 may contain one or plural PDF image-only files, such as the two shown at 12a, 12b, as well as other-composition PDF files, such as those shown at 12c, 12d and 12e, a Yes/No inquiry block 14 in the system queries this data stream for the purpose of determining whether the block has “engaged” a PDF image-
5 only file.

If No, such as will be the case with respect to files 12c, 12d and 12e, such a file is steered via route 14a to appropriate, conventional PDF handling protocols and environments which are represented in Fig. 1 by a block 16. If Yes, such as in relation to files 12a, 12b, then, in accordance with the practice and behavior of the present invention,
10 such a file is deflected by block 14, and channeled via route 14b, to the unique, dedicated, PDF Image-Only-Pipeline 18 which is offered by the present invention. As will be seen, and understood, it is this deflection, channeling and dedication-pipelining which the system and the methodology of the present invention employ that successfully and appreciably address the specific PDF image-only file-handling disappointments
15 encountered in conventional practice.

From pipeline 18, a speedily and efficiently handled PDF image-only file, “rendered for printing” readiness, is output via path 20 for downstream transit toward selected printing structure (not shown).

Looking now into the preferred and best mode construction proposed for pipeline
20 18, such is illustrated collectively in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. As shown in Fig. 2, pipeline 18 includes an Image Decoding block 22, three Yes/No inquiry blocks 24 (Bitonal?), 26 (Color?), 28 (Rotate?), a Color Transform R,G,B to Y (luminance-chrominance-chrominance) block 30, a Rotate 90 block 32, and a Render for Printing output block 34

which feeds previously mentioned output path 20. Plainly understandable (though not specifically labeled) operative interconnections between these several blocks are also shown in Fig. 2. Two labeled interconnections, 36, 38 (between blocks 22, 24) and 38 (between blocks 32, 34), are highlighted to help visualize connective continuity between Fig. 2 and Figs. 3 and 4. And, with descriptions which now follow regarding blocks 22, 34, the operation of pipeline 18 will be clear.

Thus, Fig. 3 shows the preferred contents of, and arrangements of such contents within, Image Decoding block 22. Included here are seven Yes/No inquiry blocks 40 (JPEG?), 42 (None?), 44 (G3?), 46 (G4?), 48 (Packbits?), and 50, 52 (each RGB?), along with six other-function performance blocks 54 (JPEG Decoding), 56 (RGB to Y), 58 (G3 Decoding), 60 (G4 Decoding), 62 (Packbits Decoding) and 64 (Y, K), the latter block having an output side (its right side in Fig. 3) connected to previously mentioned interconnection 36.

As is true with regard to what is shown in Fig. 2, plainly understandable (through not specifically labeled) operative interconnections are shown between the various blocks pictured in Fig. 3. Given these interconnections, and the fact that the individual functions/operations of the several blocks as presented and labeled in Fig. 3 are conventional and well understood by those skilled in the art, the operation of Image Decoding block 22 should require no further elaboration.

Fig. 4 shows the preferred make-up of pipeline-output Render for Printing block 34. Input to this block arrives via previously mentioned interconnection 38. Included in block 34 are two Yes/No inquiry blocks 66 (8bpp?), 68 (Resize?), and three other-function blocks 70 (Error Diffusion), 72 (Resize (fit-to-page)), and 74 (Image

Placement). Again clearly expressive, operative (but not specifically labeled) interconnections exist as shown between these several blocks. These interconnections, accompanied by the individual and generally understood conventionality of the specific blocks *per se*, should fully arm those generally skilled in the relevant art to implement
5 block 34.

The invention is thus fully described systemically in its preferred and best mode embodiment. Further, the preferred and best mode manner (methodology) of its, practice and operation are also clearly evident from the figure illustrations provided, and from their respective labeled descriptions and the illustrated interconnections.

10 Uniquely, the system and methodology of this invention monitor a PDF data stream which is en route ultimately to printing, look specifically for any PDF image-only file contained in that data stream, and on finding such, deflect and channel it for carefully expedited, efficient handling by the novel, dedicated, PDF image-only pipeline proposed and provided by the invention.

15 Having thus presented the invention, we appreciate that variations and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.